



Dracut Baseball Association Rookie League Rules

Age – Must be 8 years old (or due to turn 8 before May 1st) unless cleared by DBA Officials (Letter to DBA president).

Roster – We will try to keep rosters at no more than 12 or 13 players per team

Batting – All players bat in the order as they appear in the coach's book. The players learn quickly that if they do not swing the coach takes over and pitches. It is the "umpire's" responsibility to minimize this by "opening up the strike zone." It is recommended that coaches tell kids that they are up at the plate to hit off the players, not adults – and therefore – the strike zone should run from the brim of the hat to the top of the toes.

Defense – Ten players are allowed on the field. Pitcher, Catcher, First, Second, Shortstop, Third Base and four outfielders. Each player must play a position for at least 2 innings in a 4 inning contest, or 3 innings in a 6 inning game.

Pitching – Only overhand pitches are allowed in the Rookie League, both by players and coaches who pitch.

Four Strikes will constitute a strikeout.

Walking and bunting is NOT allowed.

Players will pitch in all innings of the game. The opposing team's coach who will act as "umpire" when his team is at bat will accompany the pitcher to the mound. If the pitcher throws four balls to a batter before the ball is put in play, he/she will be "relieved" by the coach for the remainder of that at bat. When a new batter comes to the plate, the youth pitcher will again take over. If the youth pitcher hits a batter with a pitch, he/she will be "relieved" immediately for that batter. Again, when a new batter comes up, the youth pitcher takes over again.

The distance that is used for the location of the pitcher's mound can vary somewhat depending upon the ability of the youth pitcher. Coaches should establish a spot to pitch from at the beginning of each game. Usually the best spot is approximately at the bottom of the pitchers mound where the ground starts to level off. But, if there are pitchers who can pitch effectively from further back, they should do so.

Players fielding the pitchers position (when a coach is pitching) must stand behind the mound. This is done to reduce the chance of injury.

Length of Game – Each game will last a minimum of four innings and a maximum of six (6) innings or two hours. This is up to the discretion of the two team's coaches. However, remember – Safety First!! If it appears that it is getting too dark to play or the rain is coming down a little too hard – Stop!

Safety – Everyone other than the batter and the on-deck batter must sit on the bench. The on-deck batter should be positioned in such a place to be able to practice and swing, but not be in danger to anyone else while swinging the bat.

All batters and base runners must wear helmets.

Bat throwing, however unintentional, is a big problem and a danger. When a bat is thrown, the hitting team's coach will call time out to "warn" and explain to the batter the dangers of bat throwing. If the situation occurs a second time, the coach will declare the batter out. It is a "dead ball" out and no base runners can advance.

Equipment – Rubber cleats are recommended but not required.
Metal cleats are NOT allowed.

All offensive players and coaches under the age of 18 are to wear a batting helmet when on the playing field. This includes hitters, base runners and base coaches.

Catchers must wear full catchers gear when behind home plate. Players warming up the pitcher must wear catches helmet.

Catchers are required to wear a cup. All players are strongly encouraged to wear cups.

Only metal bats are allowed. Maximum bat length shall be 30". Maximum bat diameter shall be 2 and ¼". There is no restriction on the weight as compared to the length.

Jewelry may not be worn.

Other Rules -

Runners can only leave the base when the batter hits the ball. Leads are not allowed and there is no base stealing.

A base runner is out if struck by a batted ball while on the playing field.

If there is a play at a base, the base runner must slide at the base (other than first). It is the coach's responsibility to tell the player's when (and when not) to slide. A player will be ruled out if he or she does not conform to the sliding rule.

The infield fly rule does not apply in Rookie League.

The hidden ball tick is not allowed in Rookie League.

A maximum of (5) runs can be scored in any half inning. Once the fifth run crosses the plate, the inning is over. The inning is also over in the event, however unlikely, that three outs are made.

Last but not least:

We are here to make this a rewarding fun filled experience for all of the kids involved and to teach them the basic fundamentals of baseball.

Do not lose focus of the fact that some kids learn and develop faster than others.

Be Patient!

Have Fun!

Make sure the kids are allowed to experiment at all positions. Move kids around to different positions for the experience of it all. If someone wants to play somewhere, let them play there. That is the only way they are going to learn. The converse is also true. Do not FORCE someone to do something that they don't want to do.

Remember, this is Recreational baseball. Have fun with it. Get as many parents involved as you can.

THANK you for all your time, effort and support to Dracut baseball!